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Missouri House of Representatives

Interim Committee on Clean Water

Appointed by Bob F. Griffin, Speaker

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Summer 1987

December

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House of Representatives Committee Members:

Representative Norwood Creason, Chairman
Representative Wayne Crump
Representative Herb Fallert
Representative Nolan McNeill
Representative Phil Tate
Representative Merrill Townley

Summer 1987

Introduction

Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, Bob F. Griffin, reflecting his concern for the water needs of all Missourians both present and future, appointed the interim committee on clean water. The committee studied Missouri's present water status as reported by the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Conservation, and the Department of Health. The committee visited the University of Missouri and interviewed various specialists on water and water related research. Public testimony on clean water concerns was obtained at a public hearing in Cassville, Missouri, where ground water pollution is of special concern. The committee traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend the Missouri River Basin States Association to observe first hand the interstate negotiation for the water rights to the Missouri River. The final committee hearing resulted from concerns over chlordane pollution in the Missouri, Meramec, Blue, Little Blue, James and Mississippi Rivers reported by the Department of Health. The committee heard extensive testimony from representatives of the Missouri Pest Control Association, Inc. and the Velsicol Chemical Corporation on the use and misuse of chlordane as well as excerpts from pertinent research on the subject.

The Interim Committee on Clean Water, after reviewing written information and testimony, respectfully submit their recommendations for legislation to Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, Bob F. Griffin.

Committee Recommendations Included in the Proposed Legislation

The proposed legislation to be known as the "Missouri Water Resources Law" makes provisions for the Department of Natural Resources to:

1. Represent and protect the interests of the state of Missouri in all matters pertaining to interstate use of water including the negotiation of interstate compacts or agreements, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.
2. Establish a state water use plan directed toward attainment of optimal use of the state's water, the most appropriate economic development of the state's water resources and determining the water resource needs of the state for existing and future uses as: water supplies, environmental protection, agriculture, navigation, recreation, drainage, flood control, and fish and wildlife habitat. The state water plan shall be updated every five years and shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.
3. Undertake, participate in, and encourage studies, investigation, and research pertaining to water resources.
4. Compile and analyze information related to the water resources of the state of Missouri.

5. Coordinate for and cooperate in the collection of water resource data collected by various state, federal, or other governmental agencies and organizations.
6. Administer state and federal grants.
7. Inventory existing surface water and ground water use.
8. Inventory the quantity of surface water and ground water available for future use.
9. Recognize the natural hydrological relationship between surface water and ground water when establishing the state's water inventory.
10. Upon request, any political subdivision shall supply assistance and data to enable the Department to carry out its obligations as defined in the Missouri water resources law.
11. Accept gifts, contributions, donations and grants for the purposes mentioned in this report on legislative recommendations.

Committee Recommendations Not Included in the Proposed Legislation

Testimony by the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Conservation and the Department of Health, demonstrated that each department was responsible for certain aspects of clean water. The Committee recommends periodic meetings of these three departments to avoid duplication of task, to cooperate and share information necessary for individual activities and programs involving clean water and to enact consistent policies and regulations relating to clean water.

The committee heard testimony from the Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources and concerned citizens on the need for septic tank design, installation and location specifications. Areas of the state south of the Missouri River have geologic conditions which allow surface contaminations caused by poorly or untreated human wastes to reach ground water. Treatment and hauling of wastes pumped from septic tanks was discussed before the committee. This activity is currently not subject to state control except in cases where nuisances to humans can be proved. Information for possible legislation regulating septic tanks and haulers of septic wastes is being reviewed.

Testifying before the Committee

Jefferson City, September 30, 1987

1. Mr. William Ford - Director of Environmental Quality,
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
2. Dr. Jim Williams - Director of the Division of Geology
and Land Survey, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
3. Mr. Jerry Vineyard - Assistant Director of Division of
Geology and Land Survey, Missouri Department of
Natural Resources
4. Mr. Charles Stieferman - Director of the Water Pollution
Control, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
5. Ms. Pam Walker - Director of Policy, Missouri Department
of Natural Resources
6. Mr. John Howland - Water Pollution Control, Missouri
Department of Natural Resources

Testifying before the Committee
at the University of Missouri - Columbia
September 30, 1987

1. Dr. Bob Volk - Agronomy, University of Missouri, Columbia
2. Mr. Donald L. Pfost - Missouri Irrigation and Water Management Association, Inc.
3. Mr. Blaise Brazos - Civil Engineering, University of Missouri, Columbia
4. Mr. John T. O'Connor - Civil Engineering, University of Missouri, Columbia
5. Mr. Thomas E. Clevenger - Water Resources Research Center, University of Missouri, Columbia
6. Mr. Paul E. Blanchard - Geology, University of Missouri, Columbia
7. Mr. Dennis M. Siever - Agricultural Engineering, University of Missouri, Columbia
8. Mr. Stephen H. Anderson - Agronomy, University of Missouri, Columbia
9. Mr. Clark J. Cantzen - Agronomy, University of Missouri, Columbia
10. Harold D. Kerr - Agronomy, University of Missouri, Columbia

Testifying before the Committee

Jefferson City, October 7, 1987

1. Dr. John R. Bagby, Jr. - Missouri Department of Health
2. Mr. Eric C. Blank - State Public Health Laboratory,
Missouri Department of Health
3. Mr. James R. Whitley - Missouri Department of Conservation

Testifying before the Committee

Cassville, Missouri, October 21, 1987

1. Mr. Dan Philbrick - Soil Conservation Service,
Cassville, Missouri
2. Mrs. Edna Tatman, Seligman, Missouri
3. Mr. Buford La Rue, Cassville, Missouri
4. Mr. Paul Trentham - Engineering, Management and
Design for the City of Seligman, Neosho, Missouri
5. Mr. Lyle Tatman, Seligman, Missouri
6. Mr. Robert Reed - Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, Jefferson City, Missouri
7. Mr. William L. St. Gemme - Southwestern District
Office, Missouri Department of Health, Springfield,
Missouri
8. Mr. Roger Adams - Chamber of Commerce, Eagle Rock,
Missouri

Testifying before the Committee

Jefferson City, November 18, 1987

1. Dr. Abdallah M. Khasawinak - Manager of Toxicology,
Velsicol Chemical Corporation
2. Dr. Darryl Sanders - Entomology Department, University
of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri Pest Control Association
3. Mr. John Wingate - Missouri Pest Control Association,
Columbia, Missouri
4. Mr. Norman O. Besheer - Missouri Pest Control Association,
Gunter Exterminating Company, Kansas City, Missouri
5. Mr. Mel R. Yetter - Missouri Pest Control Association,
Cameron, Missouri
6. Mr. Forrest E. St. Aubin - Registered Professional
Entomologist, Owner and Operator of Summa Pest
Management Services, Kansas City, Missouri